



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB26

Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment

Senate Finance Committee

February 2, 2023

Submitted by Kali Schumitz and Mark Huffman, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB26, which requires the Maryland Department of Health to start an Express Lane Eligibility Program to enroll individuals into certain programs. And this bill requires the Department of Human Services to categorically make eligible and automatically enroll with one streamlined application income-eligible individuals and households for SNAP and Energy Assistance.

SB26's benefits are significant:

- Automatically enrolling people for energy bill pay assistance if they qualify for SNAP, TANF, SSI and means-tested veteran's benefits.
- Reducing the duplicity of multiple trips, multiple documents, for residents.
- Reducing the intake flow for state benefit offices.
- Ensuring that seniors and vulnerable low-income household's power stays on as many receive SNAP, went through the SNAP application process, and certifiers missed the opportunity to check for energy assistance needs.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB26. MAP thanks Senator Augustine for this common-sense bill.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.